

**Judiciary Committee
Public Hearing**

March 24, 2009

Testimony of Theresa C. Lantz, Commissioner, Department of Correction

Good afternoon, Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. I am Theresa Lantz, Commissioner for the Department of Correction and submit this testimony on the following bill:

**Committee Bill No. 537, An Act Providing Community Reintegration Services to
End-of-Sentence Inmates**

The Department does not support Committee Bill No. 537. As you know, the Department's obligation to provide programs and services to an offender ends when the offender is discharged from the care and custody of the commissioner of correction. While I certainly understand the importance of successful reintegration to the community, the DOC would have no jurisdiction over the offender and it would most certainly be cost prohibitive. I would urge support of the Governor's initiative, House Bill 6363, which has a provision that restores discretion to place qualified inmates on reentry furlough for up to 45 days of community supervision. This would allow the DOC to provide some measure of community supervision and services to an offender who would otherwise discharge end of sentence.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on Committee Bill 537.